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PAGE 01 PHNOM 01271 162048Z

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 NEA-13 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1114

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DJAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 01271 162048Z
JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED TEXT PARAGRAPH 5. C.)

SUBJECT: CAMBODIAN SIT REP

1. JUNE 18 ALERT. RUMORS CONTINUE TO BUILD THAT VC/NVNA PLANNING TO TAKE SOME SORT OF ACTION AGAINST PHNOM PENH, PARTICULARLY AIRFIELD, RADIO STATION AND ELECTRIC POWER PLANT, ALL OF WHICH OUTSIDE OF CITY PROPER. SENIOR FANK OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NO FIRM INTELLIGENCE OF UNITS INVOLVED NOR OF NUMBERS OF ENEMY TROOPS. IN ADDITION, GOVT ACTING AS IF SOMETHING ANTICIPATED. FOR EXAMPLE, BUSHY TREES IN FRONT OF EMBASSY WHICH LINE FIELD BORDERING BASSAC RIVER ARE BEING SEVERELY PRUNED. DIRECTOR OF PT&T TOLD EMBOFF THAT VC/NVNA VERY EXPERIENCED AT CAMOFLAGING AND THIS WAS EFFORT TO PREVENT THEM FROM HIDING. IN ADDITION, FIELD IS BEING SITED WITH NUMBER OF ABOVE GROUND SANDBAGGED POSTS.

2. GOVT RE-ORGANIZATION. CHARGE AND EMBOFF RECEIVED DEFINITE IMPRESSION TODAY DURING MEETING WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES, DOUC RASY AND KEEKY LIK THAT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED "BROADENING" OF THE GOVT MAY BE DELAYED. SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT THE AFP REPORT THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE HAD BEEN CREATED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO PREPARE A "BROADENING OF THE GOVT OF NATIONAL SALVATION", DOUC RASY SAID THAT THAT WAS NOT THE INTENTION OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH IN FACT HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMED. THE ASSEMBLY AT THAT MOMENT THIS MORNING WAS DEBATING ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE TO FUNCTION MUCH LIKE GOVT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE IN US CONGRESS. IN ADDITION, DOUC RASY DENIED LOCAL REPORT THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD VOTED NOT TO APPROVE GOVT'S IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW. SUBJECT WAS DEBATED ON JUN 13, BUT NO VOTE WAS TAKEN. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME DRAWING BACK OF THOSE WHO WISHED MORE IMMINENT GOVT CHANGES, BUT THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON THE GOVT TO REMIND IT OF THE ASSEMBLY'S CONCERN THAT THERE IS NEED FOR URGENT ACTION.

3. CODEL VISIT. DURING MEETING WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBER, CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM COWGER WAS TOLD THAT GROUPS REPRESENTED BY THESE PEOPLE WERE 100 PERCENT BEHIND LON NOL GOVT. ASKED ABOUT THE PEASANTS, STUDENTS SAID THAT THEY ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE SIHANOUK HAS ASKED VC/NVNA TO HELP AND THAT HE LOSING WHAT GENERALLY PASSIVE SUPPORT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY. GROUP WAS EMPHATIC THAT SIHANOUK

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 01271 162048Z

WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED AGAIN BY EDUCATED PEOPLE. GROUP MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THEY WANTED AND NEEDED TRAINING, AND THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE USG OR AUSTRALIAN ADVISORS. STUDENTS SAID THAT IF THEY HAD TO BE TRAINED ELSEWHERE THEY WOULD PREFER EITHER MALAYSIA OR INDONESIA AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE. THEY SAID THAT WHILE STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT TRAINING IN VIETNAM OR THAILAND, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT

FOR ORDINARY SOLDIER. IF THEY WERE TO BE TRAINED IN SOUTH VIETNAM OR THAILAND, TROOPS WOULD HAVE TO BE PROPERLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT NECESSITY FOR SUCH TRAINING. IN ADDITION, IF THERE WERE US OR AUSTRALIAN ADVISORS WHO COULD DO SUCH TRAINING, THIS WOULD PROBABLY ENABLE CAMBODIAN SOLDIER TO ACCEPT NECESSITY. GROUP MADE IMPASSIONED STATEMENT TO AFFECT THAT CAMBODIA "DID NOT GO TO WAR, WAR CAME TO US."

4. VC/NVNA ACTIONS. BOTH STUDENT GROUP AND PRES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TOLD CON COWGER THAT VC/NVNA SEEMED TO BE ACTING OUT OF VENGEANCE TOWARD THE CAMBODIANS. THEY SAID THAT FOR NO APPARENT REASON ENEMY HAD DESTROYED SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES AND LOOTED THEM OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, FIXTURES, EVEN TO THE LIGHT FIXTURES. COMMENT: THIS IS PROBABLY REACTION TO FACT THAT THESE BUILDINGS DEFENDED, ALBEIT FEEBLY, BY STUDENT "COMMANDOS" AND THUS CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE

TARGETS. IN GENERAL, ALL REPORTS EMBASSY HAVE HEARD TO DATE INDICATE VC/NVA BEHAVING PROPERLY TOWARD INHABITANTS AND PAYING FOR MOST ITEMS.

5. MILITARY.

A. KOMPONG SPEU TOWN APPARENTLY CLEARED BY FANK ALTHOUGH THE FANK COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ISOLATED SNIPERS ARE STILL ACTIVE. (CORRESPONDENTS WHO RETURNED PHNOM PENH AFTERNOON JUNE 16 REPORT ARVN TROOPS HELPING THEMSELVES TO GOODS.) FANK CLAIMS THEY CAPTURED MORE THAN 1,000 ARMS OF DIFFERENT TYPES, BUT COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT SPECIFY.

B. KOMPONG CHHNANG TOWN WAS ATTACKED EVENING JUNE 15-16. MILITARY BRIEFER REPORTED FIRST ATTACK 2100 JUNE 15 FOLLOWED BY SECOND ATTACK AT 0225 JUNE 16. BRIEFER STATED THAT HIGH SCHOOL AND AIRPORT ALSO ATTACKED, BUT STATED THAT BY MORNING FANK HAD PUSHED ATTACKERS TOWARD

SOUTH. CORRESPONDENTS WHO SPENT NIGHT IN TOWN REPORTED CONTINUAL FIRE FROM EARLY EVENING UNTIL DAWN. THEY HEARD NO INCOMING ROUNDS AND WHILE UNABLE TO CONTEST FANK VIEWS, AS THEY SPENT ALL EVENING LYING ON FLOOR OF HOTEL ROOM, THEY HAD DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT DOGS,

CATS, AND SHADOWS WERE TARGETS IN ADDITION TO WHATEVER VC/NVNA THERE

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PAGE 04 PHNOM 01271 162048Z

MIGHT HAVE BEEN. CORRESPONDENTS RETURNED PHNOM PENH BY BACKTRACKING FROM KOMPONG CHHNANG TOWN TO PURSAT AND BY TAKING TRAIN.

C. IN SIEM REAP, BRIEFER HAD NOTHING TO REPORT. DATT INFORMED THAT RUINS INCLUDING PORTIONS OF ANGKOR WAT AND ANGHOR THOM OCCUPIED 76 ;:/NVNA. DATT INFORMED THAT VC/NVNA PROPAGANDA TOWARD POPULATION IS BASED ON "IMMINENT ARRIVAL AT SIEM REAP OF SIHANOUK". FANK ANTICIPATES A FURTHER ATTACK AGAINST SIEM REAP IN ORDER TO TAKE IT. FANK OFFICIALS INSIST THAT VC/NVNA HAVE BEEN WITNESSED USING ELEPHANTS AS FIRE BASES FOR RECOILESS RIFLES. COMMENT: ANGKORIAN FRIEZES IN TWENTIETH CENTURY REINCARNATIONS.

D. KOMPONG THOM. DATT INFORMED THAT SITUATION IN KOMPONG THOM IS "CRITICAL" FANK OFFICIALS SAID TOWN RECEIVED THREE GENERAL ATTACKS INCLUDING MORTAR HARASSMENT. REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN HELIO-LIFTED TO THE TOWN. FANK STATES ROAD BETWEEN KOMPONG THOM AND SIEM REAP CLOSED DUE TO ENEMY ACTIVITY AND THAT ROAD SOUTH OF KOMPONG THOM IS CUT. FANK DID NOT CLARIFY NUMBERS OF LOCATIONS OF ENEMY INTERDICTIONS ON KOMPONG THOM-SIEM REAP ROAD, NOR DID THEY SPECIFY HOW FAR SOUTH OF KOMPONG THOM ROAD WAS CUT.

E. IN RATTANAKIRI PROVINCE THE MILITARY BRIEFER STATED THAT LABANSIEK HAD BEEN ATTACKED AND THAT PLANTATION AND INFIRMARY HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY VC/NVNA.

F. KOMPONG CHAM TOWN CONTINUED TO BE HARASSED. DATT INFORMED THAT THERE WAS FIGHTING AROUND UNIVERSITY AND THAT ENEMY ATTEMPTING TO SEIZE BRIDGES IN TOWN. FANK ANTICIPATES A NEW ATTACK BY VC/NVNA WHO HAVE RECEIVED IMPORTANT REINFORCEMENTS VIA KRATIE TOWN AND CHHLONG IN KRATIE PROVINCE.

6. THAI AID. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AKP ANNOUNCED ARRIVAL OF FIRST TRANCH OF LOGISTIC "AID" GIVEN BY THE THAI GOVT. AID WAS BROUGHT BY SPECIAL THAI AIRCRAFT AND WAS HANDED OVER BY THAI GEN SAAT SIRILAK. CAMBODIANS HELD SMALL CEREMONY AT AIRPORT IN HONOR OF THIS FIRST, CONCRETE EXPRESSION OF THAI WILLINGNESS TO HELP CAMBODIA. AKP DOES NOT STATE WHAT AIRPLANE IT CARRIED BUT EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS CARGO WAS PARTS OF MILITARY UNIFORMS.

7. MAO TSE-TUNG STREET HAS BEEN RENAMED LIBERTY BOULEVARD. END UNCLAS.
RIVES